FAITH AND CRITICAL REASON

COURSE SYLLABUS

Summer Session III 2017
THEO-1000-PW1
ONLINE

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COURSE DESCRIPTION FROM THE CATALOGUE

As part of a liberal arts curriculum, theology aims to develop students’ understanding of the relation between religion and modernity’s approaches to knowledge. As part of a Jesuit education, the theology core goes further by developing students’ capacity for a critical exploration of the complementary roles of faith and reason in the pursuit of wisdom and learning. In light of Fordham’s commitment to encouraging “the growth of a life of faith consonant with moral and intellectual development,” the theology core introduces into students’ intellectual development challenges to dualistic thinking and prepares them to become more nuanced in their appreciation of the interrelations of faith and reason.

As an introductory theology course, Faith and Critical Reason is designed to acquaint students with the analytical study of religion and religious experience, and to give them some critical categories of evaluating the history of theological discourse. The academic study of some of the forms, concepts, experience, and theological formulations found in Christianity and various other traditions will be introduced.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1) identify and apply a set of evaluative criteria to theological claims;
2) engage in more sophisticated levels of theological discourse, particularly with regard to the question of God, the demands of faith in the modern world, and the theological responses to social, economic, and scientific issues.
3) provide points of comparison between the Christian tradition and other religious traditions;
4) confidently reflect further on the questions of theology, faith, and reason, both in formal academic settings and throughout their lives.

COURSE POLICIES

Requirements and Grading:

1. Careful reading of the assigned texts, and thoughtful completion of Reading Guides and other assignments on Blackboard (30%).
2. Significant and meaningful contribution to course discussion boards (20%).
3. Three short papers (2-3 pages each) in response to a set question (30%).
4. A Final Examination (20%).
Assessment of Grading:

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<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95-100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Excellent; Honors-level work, outstanding.</td>
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<tr>
<td>90-95</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>Excellent, with some minor mistakes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>Very good; High level of performance.</td>
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<tr>
<td>83-86</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Good; Solid &amp; above average level of performance.</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>Good; Above average but with some mistakes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>Average level of performance.</td>
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<tr>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Satisfactory; An acceptable level of performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>Minimally acceptable</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Passing, but unsatisfactory; Below average performance.</td>
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<tr>
<td>&lt; 59</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Failure; Inadequate performance.</td>
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The midterm grade will be a cumulative report on work done to that point.

Academic Integrity:

Students are expected to abide by Fordham’s academic integrity policy. If a student violates that policy, the violation will be reported and the student will receive an F on the assignment/examination. Should the student incur a second violation, that student shall receive an F for the course and will be subject to the sanctions assigned by the university.

Late Assignments and Papers:

Late Blackboard assignments will not be accepted.

Papers must be submitted by the day and time at which they are marked due. Late papers will be marked down one full letter grade for each day they are late.

ADA Notice:

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, all students, with or without disabilities, are entitled to equal access to the programs and activities of Fordham University. If you believe that you have a disabling condition that may interfere with your ability to participate in the activities, coursework, or assessment of the object of this course, you may be entitled to accommodations. Please schedule an appointment to speak with someone at the Office of Disability Services (Rose Hill - O’Hare Hall, Lower Level, x0655 or at Lincoln Center – Room 207, x6282).
Syllabus of Course Topics and Reading Assignments

Module 1: Religion & Faith
Unit 1: What is Religion?
Due June 2

Unit 2: What is Faith?
Due June 6
Terrence Tilley, “Defining Faith” in Faith: What It Is and What It Isn’t, pp 26-56

First Paper due June 9 by 11:59 EST

Module 2: Scripture, History, Narrative
Unit 3: Scripture as Literature
Due June 13
Peter Ochs, “What is Scripture” (blog post) and Selections from Dei Verbum

Unit 4: Scripture as Emerging Narrative
Due June 16
Genesis 1-2

Unit 5: Texts and Communities
Due June 20
Bart Ehrman, A Brief Introduction to the New Testament, pp 1-12, 46-59, 60-76.
(subject to change before the unit begins)

Unit 6: Scripture in Community
Due June 23

Second Paper due June 27 by 11:59PM EST

Module 3: Naming God
Unit 7: Metaphorical Language
Due June 30

Unit 8: Analogical Language
Due July 5
Elizabeth Johnson, “Classical Theology” in She Who Is, 104-120
George Lindbeck, The Nature of Doctrine, pp 1-5.

Third Paper due July 7 by 11:59EST

Module 4: Current Issues in Theology
Unit 9: Atheism
Due July 11
Alister McGrath, “The Intellectual Foundations: Feuerbach, Marx and Freud” in The Twilight of Atheism, pp 48-78
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 10:</th>
<th>Due July 13</th>
<th>Islam</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Mahmoud Ayoub, <em>A Muslim View of Christianity</em>, pp 32-61</td>
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<td>Unit 11:</td>
<td>Due July 18</td>
<td>Racism</td>
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<td>Unit 12:</td>
<td>Due July 21</td>
<td>Poverty</td>
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<td>Miguel de la Torre, ed, “Catholicism” and “Protestantism” in <em>The Hope of Liberation in World Religions</em>, pp 13-49.</td>
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<td>Unit 13:</td>
<td>Due July 25</td>
<td>Women</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Johnson, “God Acting Womanish” in <em>Quest for the Living God</em>, pp 90-112.</td>
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<td>Unit 14:</td>
<td>Due July 28</td>
<td>Ecology</td>
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<td>Wendell Berry, “Christianity and the Survival of Creation,” pp 149-163.</td>
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*Final Exam Due Aug 8 by 11:59PM*